

Summary Minutes
City of Sedona
Water Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting
Vultee Conference Room, Sedona City Hall, Sedona, AZ
Thursday, November 12, 2009 – 10:30 a.m.

1. Verification of Notice, Call to Order

Chairman MacFarlane called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Committee Members: Chairman Anita MacFarlane, Vice Chairman Brent Bitz and Committee Members Marybeth Carlile - excused, Mark Fenech – Oak Creek Water Company, Keith Self – Arizona Water Company - excused, and Cindy Rovey

Staff: Audree Juhlin and Donna Puckett

2. Committee and Staff announcements

Chairman MacFarlane reported that she attended the Coconino County WAC for the Mayor and they were discussing the "Add Water", which is water that might be available from some other sources for Maricopa, Pinal and one other Arizona county. They were trying to figure out how they might share it, but it was obvious that they aren't going to share with any other counties, so it isn't anything that we can plan on. The Vice Chairman added that NAMWA and the City of Flagstaff are going to monitor it, so we will get some feedback.

Vice Chairman Bitz asked about the Commission's vacancy and the Chairman indicated that she sent Rex Bergamini an email about the process and asked him to contact Audree, but he hasn't. Audree Juhlin explained that it needs to be agendaized to discuss either opening it up or interviewing him. Last time, he was the only applicant, but we held off the interview, because the City Council was evaluating the Commissions and Committees. We are now trying to see if he is still interested in the position. Chairman MacFarlane indicated that he was, but he hasn't called. Mark Fenech asked if there is any interest from Big Park Water, and Chairman MacFarlane explained that they are really out of the area and we can only have one person, which right now that is Marybeth Carlile. Vice Chairman Bitz indicated he will give Rex a call.

3. Approval of the August 13, 2009 minutes

The Chairman asked if someone would like to make a motion.

MOTION: Cindy Rovey moved that they be approved. Mark Fenech seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion carried four (4) for and zero (0) opposed. (Carlile and Self excused)

4. Public Forum for items not listed on the agenda--limit of three minutes per presentation (Note: the Committee may not discuss or make any decisions on any matter brought forward by a member of the public)

The Chairman opened the public forum and having no public present, closed the public forum.

5. Discussion/update on Committee member assignments and meetings

Cindy Rovey reported that we will have a whole new school campus by Water Wise Day in April, and it will give a lot of nice venues. Mrs. Crawford emailed her to say that the school is closed April 22nd and 23rd, and she asked if the water festival could be on Thursday, April 29th. Chairman MacFarlane indicated that date should work and Cindy

stated that if that is okay, she will set that date with Mrs. Crawford, so it can be put on the school's calendar.

Vice Chairman Bitz indicated that, at the next meeting, he would like to give an update on the Yavapai WAC, because they should be issuing the Phase I report, which will discuss the supply and demand issues for the communities in the greater basin. This report will be the eye opener for the entire basin, including the Prescott and Verde Valley areas. A lot of communities will have vast increases in the amount of water needed, if they have the anticipated increase in population. He will circulate the report in advance, and then give a presentation. Audree indicated that she believes the next meeting will be in January. The Vice Chairman suggested also discussing any action we might need to take to support the City Council, because it will open a lot of debate.

Mark Fenech questioned why communities allow too many people to come in, if they know there is a lack of water, and Vice Chairman Bitz explained that the fundamental problem is that zoning regulations for both the counties and the cities allow fairly dense development, and the citizens passed a law that restricts the ability of governments to impact private property rights, and down-zoning would impact private property rights, so we are in a catch-22 situation, which it makes it difficult for municipalities to control growth. The only ability they have been given, which isn't formal yet, is the ability to restrict large scale developments based on a 100-year water supply, and that has been stopped at the state level. Audree indicated she would agendize that discussion for the next meeting.

6. Discussion/possible action regarding revisions to the City's native plants list

Chairman MacFarlane indicated that she and Marybeth Carlile have met three times with Larry Anderson from Pro-Build and Jean Searle, and then they had Jason Lavelle from the Arizona Botanical Gardens, Max Licher, Joe Villegas and Dan Wetzel attend two meetings. We have gotten through the whole list and we will send it out one more time to let everyone look at it. Some things were removed and some low-water use plants were added. Mr. Hubbell hasn't attended the meetings, but he has been following it and approves of what we are doing, so we are making progress, but we probably won't have another meeting until the end of December or first part of January. P&Z will be looking to adopt the new ordinance next month, but the plant list doesn't need to be finished then; we will keep working on that and bring it back, so you see it. Vice Chairman Bitz asked if the plant list is the addendum to put the details in place and the Chairman indicated that is correct; the purpose is to update the plant list and make it more usable for contractors and individuals.

Mark Fenech indicated on the 18th, one of the talks at the University of Arizona is Water and a Sustainable Landscape. Chairman MacFarlane suggested that another email be sent to Marybeth Carlile, in case she wants to go after she returns. Mark added that it is on design and construction, and water and a sustainable landscape.

7. Discussion/update regarding the City's Wastewater Effluent Disposal and Land Use Task Force and its work with the City's consultant Carollo Engineering

Chairman MacFarlane referenced the recent field trip to Pinetop-Lakeside last week and indicated that four people went. She, Vice Chairman Bitz, Sandy Moriarty and Larry Cepek attended, plus Pat Livingstone and Charles Mosley went from staff. We also met two of the Carollo members there, and we all toured the plant and wetlands. It was interesting, but it was not like what she thinks our wetlands would be. She also talked with Charles Mosley this morning, because we have been waiting to get the other testing done

and State Lands has been holding things up, but they finally worked it out so Carollo can do the testing, and hopefully that will happen before the end of the year, which still pushes our report back further. Vice Chairman Bitz asked about the receipt of costing information from Carollo and Chairman MacFarlane pointed out that is WEDLU's problem. Audree added that she has two emails that she will be sending to WEDLU members.

8. Discussion/possible action on educational opportunities for Committee members

Mark Fenech indicated that field trips, etc., is something we need to do more of and he gets notices of talks given by the University of Arizona; some wouldn't apply by some would. One tomorrow would be very good, and there many that are free and grant funded, but this one is \$55 and it is being held in Flagstaff. The topics are Arizona Physical Water Supply and Usage, Institutional Boundaries and Regulations, Constraints on Water Resources, Water Management Tools and Planning for the Future, which are good topics for us.

Chairman MacFarlane noted that we do have a little budget for education, and there is also one held in Tucson, but it is so far to go. Mark Fenech added that there was a tour of the whole water system in Tucson, which would have been interesting. Vice Chairman Bitz suggested that Mark continue to circulate the notices, especially for ones in Flagstaff or Prescott. Chairman MacFarlane agreed that it is worthwhile, if we have a chance to go.

Cindy Rovey indicated that it would be good if the Committee got out to look at some of the positive things that have come about because of this Committee or if there are things we think we could influence; perhaps we could meet at a site in the area, like to see landscaping situations that we would like to promote. Mark Fenech pointed out that the huge topic now is the grey water, and Tucson is looking at every line. If developers want to build, they have to have like 50% of their landscaping watered with their own water supply, grey water and rainwater collection, and Flagstaff is going to follow that. Chairman MacFarlane indicated that should be included on the next agenda; John O'Brien sent out an email about grey water and asked if we want to make it possible to be used or if we want to make it an ordinance. Vice Chairman Bitz asked if that would tie into rainwater harvesting and Chairman MacFarlane indicated yes. Audree pointed out that is item 2 on the Work Program, and she will get a copy of that ordinance to the Committee.

Vice Chairman Bitz asked what the Committee should be doing to assist City staff in moving possible ordinance changes through, and Audree explained that it would be her writing it, so she would have no problem in discussing that. The Vice Chairman indicated that Chino Valley also has some interesting things they are working on as perhaps the most progressive water use community in the area.

Mark Fenech noted that if he attends the session in Flagstaff tomorrow, he will report on it, and Chairman MacFarlane suggested that he let Audree know, so it could be agendized.

9. Discussion/possible action preparing for a joint meeting with City Council on Dec. 9, 2009

Chairman MacFarlane indicated that we have an agenda and Audree explained the format and purpose of the annual joint meetings with Council. Chairman MacFarlane asked about the difference between agenda items 4 and 5, and Audree explained that agenda item 4 is for the Committee to talk to City Council and agenda item 5 is for Council to talk to the Committee; however, they frequently wind up merging those items. Audree further explained that it could be anything that the Committee wants to discuss with the City

Council, for instance, the appointments to the different WACs, etc., which we haven't taken formally back to the Council.

Vice Chairman Bitz asked if we want to start with the 2009 Work Program and Audree stated yes. The Vice Chairman noted that we actually need to make it a 2009-2010 Work Program and the Chairman agreed. Cindy Rovey added that we need to start with what we did in 2009, to hit the accomplishments. Chairman MacFarlane indicated that she can cover those, since she will be back before the 9th. Vice Chairman Bitz suggested that he and Audree start working on summarizing it with bullets, and then we can circulate it, so the Chairman can review the draft later.

Chairman MacFarlane noted that it is kind of shown already in the "2009 Work Program and Implementation Strategies" handout, but we didn't do Public Works Day this year. Mark Fenech added that RinseSmart has been dropped by the state. Vice Chairman Bitz indicated that he will cull through the information and prepare something. Cindy Rovey indicated that sometimes less is better, and Mark Fenech asked to add grey water; however, the Chairman noted that it was already under item D, Public Policy Issues, in the second bullet. The adequacy stuff is going nowhere, so it could stay on there, but it is not something we want to discuss. Audree indicated that the two main items she sees the Committee working on are the Community Plan and the Grey Water-Rainwater Harvesting. The Chairman agreed and also added continuing to work with the Coconino Plateau and Yavapai WACs, which kind of ties into the last bullet under item D. The Drought Management Plan is going nowhere, because the university is cutting back, so it is not going to happen. Vice Chairman Bitz agreed that could be deleted. Audree suggested not deleting it, because that is something that could stay on; it just wouldn't be in the current Work Program, but it could be a future work item perhaps. The Chairman suggested saying that it is not active right now, but if it is reactivated we would participate.

Audree indicated that she will forward the "2009 Work Program and Implementation Strategies" document to the Vice Chairman, so he can prepare a revised draft, and Vice Chairman Bitz indicated he will do the accomplishments and a revision of the referenced document. Cindy Rovey suggested adding that the Water Wise Day is scheduled for April 29th and Chairman MacFarlane also noted that the DVD can be deleted.

At Vice Chairman Bitz's suggestion, the Committee members reviewed the items listed in the "2009 Work Program and Implementation Strategies" document and noted the following items for 2010:

- Change bullet 1 to say, "Submit the new plant list and continue working with nurseries to encourage the greater use of natives and low-water use plants". The Chairman explained that the list will include some of the other nurseries that carry the native plants, and Vice Chairman Bitz indicated that once those are on the plant list, we will be able to outreach to those nurseries. Audree added that you could also work with the Community Development Department by providing a list of native plants with residential permits. The Chairman agreed and indicated that the problem has always been trying to find them.
- Remove the DVD.
- Bullet 3 was incorporated into the first bullet.
- Update the date for Water Wise Day. Cindy Rovey indicated that Water Wise Day at West Sedona School is for more than 100 fourth grade students from Big Park and West Sedona. The Chairman clarified it is the Sedona School District.

Audree indicated that she will need to check to see if we will have Earth Day in 2010, and the Chairman suggested saying that we will participate if the City holds it. Regarding the KSB workshop, Audree explained that Steve DeVol emailed her to ask if the Committee could take a more active role, because the person who has done that won't be doing it this year, and Steve was asking her why they have it, so he wanted to know if the Committee would be interested in participating more actively. The Chairman stated sure, and Mark Fenech suggested a workshop on how to read the water meter, because people are taking notice that they are paying a lot for the water, or if we get the grey water, there could be a grey water workshop. The Chairman indicated that would be worthwhile. Cindy Rovey pointed out that the Native Plant Workshop has always been Keep Sedona Beautiful's program and she doesn't think we want to take it on, and the Chairman agreed, but indicated that we can participate a little more. Cindy then asked how far the grey water gets involved; it sounds more like an Earth Day event, but she hasn't been to the Native Plant Workshop. Chairman MacFarlane explained it is normally a series of lectures on different types of plants. Audree suggested another category for other possible workshops, because it may in conjunction with Water Awareness Month, and these are other possible things that we can participate in. Chairman MacFarlane noted that people doing the Water Awareness Month would be very happy for us to be more active in that too. Jawn won't be doing it after this coming year and they are looking for new ideas. The Chairman suggested that we put this item on the January agenda.

- Regarding Public Works Day, Audree explained that it was held in conjunction with Earth Day. Vice Chairman Bitz asked if it should be removed as a separate event and Audree explained that it could be separate, depending on the budget. Chairman MacFarlane suggested saying that these are things we may do, depending on the City's budget. Mark Fenech suggested the alternative of saying we want to remove this, because we understand the City's budget. Audree explained that these are things that we have participated in previously, but we aren't sure that we will continue participation this year, because of budget issues. Then, if next year is a better budget year, we could resume participation. Chairman MacFarlane asked how much money is left in our budget and Audree indicated that it has been cut again, but there is probably still about \$5,000 in there. The Chairman noted that we may have to buy supplies this year; however, Audree indicated that we are pretty much ready to go. The Water Wise Day costs about \$2,000 for everything.
- Regarding the Water Conservation Demonstration Gardens, Audree indicated that she always attributes those gardens to the Committee.
- RinseSmart is an ongoing thing that we hope Arizona Water is tracking to see if we have saved water, but you can say it is complete. Vice Chairman Bitz noted that he will put it in the accomplishments.
- Regional Water Body will be changed to implement what has been approved or we can add that we will work with Council to identify the goals, and then develop and implement the strategies. Chairman MacFarlane asked if that will be presented to them eventually, and Audree suggested telling them that you are going to bring it forward through a formal agenda request for action, and then review it in the joint meeting; she sees that being one of the primary focuses of the joint meeting. Chairman MacFarlane indicated it was reviewed a little at the last meeting, but then nothing came of it.
- Public Policy Issues include updating the Community Plan; 1575 is on hold until the legislature says that more can be done as far as implementation.
- Wastewater treatment is okay.

- Leave the Drought Management Plan in there, but indicate that it is on hold, because of the university's budget problems.
- We are still liaising with the private water suppliers. Cindy Rovey expressed her hopes that there could be a positive plug for both water companies, for their cooperation with this Committee. Chairman MacFarlane indicated she does that every time she talks to the Council. Vice Chairman Bitz asked if it was this past year that we met with Arizona Water on their rates and Mark Fenech said yes, and it goes back to the fact that if you don't have enough water, a new development has to pay to play, and maybe the Committee can oversee that, to ensure the water companies are tracking that. As of September 1st, Oak Creek Water implemented a hook-up fee for those building a new home, which is to help pay for a new tank. Someone currently building two new homes paid \$8,000 and that is hardly anything compared to some of the other areas; in the past, they didn't pay anything. We have water in the ground, but we are out of water with storage. Chairman MacFarlane noted that is something the legislature doesn't seem to understand; they passed a law that the cities could not implement any more building code changes or impact fees, so we can't charge for increased costs. Audree clarified that we just can't increase what we have in place. Cindy Rovey suggested that for an accomplishment, we should note the improved relationships with the water companies; that is one of the benefits of this Committee. Audree pointed out an example is Mark sharing the educational opportunities. Chairman MacFarlane indicated that it has turned around 95% from what it used to be.

Vice Chairman Bitz indicated that he will do a draft of those points, so they can be sent out by staff and reviewed by the Committee, and he noted that the regional body piece also has moved on. Audree indicated that we will need to update that as well. The Vice Chairman asked Audree to send him a Word file of that in the next day or two. We won't have a meeting before our meeting with the City Council, so this won't be approved, but it can serve as a discussion tool. Audree suggested that the Committee members let her know if there are any concerns, because no action can be taken, but she could work on the document herself.

The Vice Chairman asked about assignments for the discussions and the Chairman indicated that Cindy Rovey will talk about the educational stuff, Marybeth Carlile can report on the updated plant list, she (the Chairman) will discuss the accomplishments, Vice Chairman Bitz can discuss the regional water stuff, and Mark Fenech can cover the updates for the two water companies. Audree suggested including items like the rate structure and hook-up fee. Mark Fenech indicated he may be able to get with Keith Self to put their heads together. Vice Chairman Bitz noted that the rate increase would be of interest, and the Chairman clarified that perhaps it could be a status on their hearings; we keep getting questions about tiered rates. Cindy Rovey confirmed that the 2010 event will be the Committee's fourth Water Wise Day, and Mark Fenech added that he gets three or four people every month that go into the next tier and their bill almost triples, so they insist there is something wrong. When they show them, they start getting the word out that it is a tiered system and irrigation gets cut way back. Audree explained that the joint meetings are usually very informal, so it is an open dialogue.

10. Discussion/possible action regarding future meeting dates and future agenda items

Audree explained that the next scheduled meeting would be January 14th. The Chairman indicated that we will also have one in March or the first part of April to plan the water day, then we said we would have two in the fall. Vice Chairman Bitz recalled that the meeting for the Water Wise Day was going to be a special meeting; otherwise, we would only have

three business meetings. Audree recalled that the Committee said it would have the flexibility to call meetings as needed.

The Committee members indicated that at this time, the regular meetings would be in January, March and possibly September and November, with a special meeting for Water Wise in April. Audree indicated that January 14th would not work with her schedule and the Committee members determined that the meeting would be scheduled for Monday, January 11th, if the room is available.

Vice Chairman Bitz confirmed that meetings for the Community Plan update would be considered special meetings, and the Chairman noted that we also may have to break into a small group. Audree indicated that we may have two members working on grey water, two on rainwater harvesting and two on the Community Plan update, or take sections of the Community Plan.

Vice Chairman Bitz referenced efforts to get money from WAC for Water Wise Day; they will give us the money, but we need to do what is required to send them a letter. Audree indicated that we now have the Grant Review Committee in place, so she will provide him with the forms. The Vice Chairman indicated that he will add it to the 2010 things to do.

Cindy Rovey asked who sponsors the Verde Valley Water Wise Day and Vice Chairman Bitz explained it is the combined effort of the Yavapai WAC working with the school board, and then they get volunteers. Cindy indicated that she will say that although there is a Verde Valley event, for budget reasons, etc., the teachers chose to stay local. Vice Chairman Bitz explained that the Verde Valley event is really a Cottonwood School District initiative called the Verde Water Festival, and we are taking care of our school district. Audree noted that the timing is also important, because our curriculum and their curriculum is different; one is in the fall and ours is in the spring.

The Chairman indicated that the next meeting is the joint meeting on December 9th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and she asked Audree to send the Committee members a reminder.

11. Adjournment

The Chairman called for adjournment at 11:28 a.m., without objection.

I certify that the above is a true and correct summary of the meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Committee held on November 12, 2009.

Donna A. S. Puckett, *Recording Secretary*

Date